What Is Claimed Is:

1. An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a code information storage part that stores code information for rendering;

a font storage part that stores character shape data; and

a management part that receives the code information and stores the information in the code information storage part,

wherein the management part, for code information indicating a character, stores, in the code information storage part, reference information for referencing shape data of the character within the font storage part and stores, in the font storage part, the reference information pointing to the code information referencing the character shape data in association with the shape data of the character.

2. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising:

a character data generation part that generates character shape data, wherein the management part, according to code information indicating a new character, generates shape data of the new character by the character data generation part and stores the data in the font storage part.

3. The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the management part, when storing the character shape data generated by the character data generation part in the font storage part, if there is no free space in the font storage part, transfers the character shape data stored in the font storage part and reference information pointing to code information referencing the shape data to the code information storage part, and modifies the reference information for referencing the shape data, stored in the code

information storage part, in association with code information referencing the shape data.

- 4. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management part, when the code information storage part runs out of a free space to store the code information, deletes code information for rendering from the code information stored in the code information storage part before being replaced by code information for subsequent rendering, so as to increase free space of the code information storage part, while if the deleted code information indicates a character, invalidates reference information pointing to the code information from among character shape data corresponding to the code information.
- 5. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management part, when the code information storage part runs out of a free space to store the code information, performs rendering processing by using part or all of the code information stored in the code information storage part, deletes the code information having performed the rendering processing from the code information storage part, while if the deleted code information indicates a character, invalidates reference information pointing to the code information from among character shape data corresponding to the code information and stores code information pointing to rendered data generated by the rendering processing in the code information storage part.
- 6. The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the management part, when the code information indicates a character and is specified to render only part of the shape of the character, stores part of shape data to render the part in the code information storage part.
 - 7. An image processing apparatus, comprising:
 a code information storage part that stores code information for

rendering;

a font storage part that stores character shape data; and

a management part that receives the code information and stores the data in the code information storage part,

wherein the management part mutually connects pieces of code information indicating the same character, stored in the code information storage part, as a mutual reference list including the shape data of the character stored in the font storage part.

8. The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising:

a character data generation part that generates character shape data, wherein the management part, according to code information indicating a new character, generates shape data of the new character by the character data generation part and stores the shape data in the font storage part.

- 9. The image processing apparatus according to claim 8, wherein the management part, when storing character shape data generated by the character data generation part in the font storage part, if there is no free space in the font storage part, transfers character shape data stored in the font storage part and reference information pointing to code information referencing the shape data to the code information storage part, and modifies reference information for referencing the shape information, stored in the code information storage part, in association with code information referencing the shape data.
- 10. The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the management part, when the code information storage part runs out of a free space to store the code information, deletes code information for rendering from the code information stored in the code information storage

part before being replaced by code information for subsequent rendering, so as to increase the free space of the code information storage part, while if the deleted code information indicates a character, deletes the code information from the mutual reference list and modifies the reference relationship so as to maintain the mutual reference list of other pieces of code information and the character shape data.

- the management part, when the code information storage part runs out of a free space to store the code information, performs rendering processing by using part or all of the code information stored in the code information storage part, deletes the code information having performed the rendering processing from the code information storage part, while if the deleted code information indicates a character, deletes the code information from the mutual reference list, modifies the reference relationship so as to maintain the mutual reference list of other pieces of code information and the character shape data, and stores code information pointing to rendered data generated by the rendering processing in the code information storage part.
- 12. The image processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the management part, when the code information indicates a character and is specified to render only part of the shape of the character, stores part of shape data to render the part in the code information storage part.
- 13. An image processing method that controls code information for rendering by using a code information storage part that stores the code information, and a font storage part that stores character shape data, the method comprising the steps of:

when code information indicating a character is inputted, storing, in the code information storage part, reference information for referencing the shape data of the character indicated by the code information, the shape data being stored in the font storage part; and

storing, in the font storage part, reference information pointing to the code information referencing the shape data of the character in association with the shape data of the character.

14. An image processing method that controls code information for rendering by using a code information storage part that stores the code information, and a font storage part that stores character shape data, the method comprising the steps of:

when code information indicating a character is inputted, storing, in the code information storage part, reference information for referencing the shape data of the character indicated by the code information in association with the code information, the shape data being stored in the font storage part;

storing, in the font storage part, reference information pointing to the code information referencing the shape data of the character in association with the shape data of the character; and

when a different piece of code information indicating the same character as indicated by the code information is already stored in the code information storage part, changing reference information associated with the different piece of code information to the reference information pointing to the code information, based on the reference information stored in the font storage part in association with the shape data of the character, and storing, in the code information storage part, the reference information pointing to the different piece of code information in association with the code information.

15. An image forming apparatus that forms an image according to

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input data, comprising:

an input data analysis part that analyzes the input data and classifies the data by type;

a character data processing part that converts the input data to render a character classified by the input data analysis part into intermediate code information;

a font storage part that stores shape data of a character to be rendered;

one or more data processing parts, each of which converts input data to render an object other than a character into intermediate code information according to the type;

an intermediate code information storage part that stores the intermediate code information;

an intermediate code processing part that stores, in the intermediate code information storage part, the intermediate code converted by the data processing part and performs rendering processing according to the intermediate code stored in the intermediate code information storage part; and

an output part that forms an image rendered by the intermediate code processing part on a recording medium,

wherein the character data processing part generates intermediate code information indicating a character and passes reference information for referencing the shape data of the character along with the intermediate code information to the intermediate code information storage part to store them in the code information storage part, the shape data being stored in the font storage part, and stores, in the font storage part, reference information pointing to code information referencing the shape data of the character in

association with the shape data of the character.

16. An image forming apparatus that forms an image according to input data, comprising:

an input data analysis part that analyzes input data and classifies the data by type;

a character data processing part that converts input data for rendering a character classified by the input data analysis part into intermediate code information;

a font storage part that stores shape data of the a character to be rendered;

one or more data processing parts, each of which converts input data for rendering an object other than a character into intermediate code information according to the type;

an intermediate code information storage part that stores the intermediate code information;

an intermediate code processing part that stores the intermediate code converted by the data processing part in the intermediate code information storage part and performs rendering processing according to the intermediate code stored in the intermediate code information storage part; and

an output part that forms an image rendered by the intermediate code processing part on a recording medium,

wherein the character data processing part mutually connects pieces of intermediate code information indicating the same character as stored in the intermediate code information storage part as a mutual reference list including the shape data of the character stored in the font storage part.